

Bridgewater May 19<sup>th</sup> 1856

My dear Mr. May,

It certainly was an omission in my letter about the Am. and For. U. A. if I did not tell you that I wished for the information respecting it for our May Meetings. The Inquirer of the 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. which you will of course receive in due course will explain to you, what my objections in asking for an account of the present position of the Unitarian Denomination... We as an English Society are not inclined to connect with the American Aps. and if that body is ever so far from sanctioning proslavery apologies and apologists, we are as far as our corporate capacity goes, giving our sanction to such a course. Without any conclusive evidence however as to the position of the Am. Aps. it would have been imprudent for me to have moved the question publicly, and I therefore begged you to send me the papers, for which I am obliged. Although this year's meeting has passed over, the necessity for our work has not passed away with it, and I shall therefore feel very much obliged to Mr. Sargent, whose name I have long known and respected, if he would send me over the proofs I need. A series of the back reports of the Association with a few marginal notes of the reports of Unitarian Meetings would I think be the most valuable evidence in addition to the direct evidence of gentlemen like yourself, Mr. Sargent, Mr. Furness &c. - If your evidence can prove that the Association has not been to blame, I feel sure you will accumulate too many proofs the other way. - At any rate the Association has not deserved the compliment paid to it in the Report of the Committee of the Association, which speaks of the Americans "as connected with us by the closest ties of descent, of language, of social interests, and of attachment to those principles of civil and religious liberty, on which depend the welfare and progress of mankind." There was great laudation of the States at various times during the meeting. The Rev. J. S. Taylor, whose heart is thoroughly sound upon the question of Slavery, although he may not have sufficient information upon all points to make him a very active worker in the cause, and from his many engagements could not spend much time with us, was the only speaker who ever alluded to the fact that there was such an evil as slavery existing in the States. - By the way he did the while complimenting Mr. Palfrey upon his having struck a blow at the Institutions. - What are the facts of Malcom's case cannot have been a very desperate case I think, nor should have known more about it. - I did not go out to London myself this month as I thought there would be no great use in attending the meetings, which unless there is some special excitement are usually very dull and lifeless. If I had been present I should have uttered a word of protest against the unanimous laudation of American affairs.



My present intention is, if I receive the necessary information to lay it formally before  
one of the Association, with a letter calling upon them to consider the evidence and  
act upon it. - They of course will consider, and decline to act. Then I have a right  
claim & hearing from our British Association here, that I might bring forward  
myself, & from which I shall gain a strong address to the London Committee,  
if I refuse to listen to that claim, I shall move an amendment to their Report  
their next Annual Meeting, and let the feeling of our denomination there  
run. To do this I shall want full documentary evidence, so do not trouble to send  
a many papers. - I shall be happy to spend a few dollars in this fashion. - I have the  
Narrative to which you refer me, but I want to be posted up to the latest dates. -  
So far about our Secularian matters. - I have been much interested in your Non-Resistance  
discussions in the Liberator, although I must confess to having more practical sym-  
pathy with the Resistant, than the Peace men. - To a man who accepts the plenary in the  
scripture, I must confess I see no escape from your doctrine, but to us, I  
think the argument is not so strong. - But we are at peace again! The  
unfavourable Non-Resistance expected, but I cannot say that I have great hopes of  
maintenance of tranquillity in Europe. - The state of the Continent is so funda-  
mentally so much latent dissatisfaction against all the governments, that an oppor-  
tunity is constantly spreading the flame of revolution over the face of Europe. The Italian  
revolution is a sign which have noticed from the papers exciting much interest &  
resent in England, owing to the very outspoken protests of Count Cavour at the  
Paris conference and afterwards at the Chambers of Sicily; but as far as I see  
of French tendencies altogether in the tone he has adopted, to anger much enduring  
good to the cause of freedom. - For my own part, I believe he is now upon awakening a storm  
Italy, and he is right it is easier to excite a revolutionary movement than to guide or  
quell it. - France and Austria would be unable to help Sicily or any other movement  
keeping down a republican movement, as in case the revolution breaks out any of  
the nations will not hesitate to follow the example and seize the opportunity which  
they have learned well upon in 1848; the necessity of simultaneous, if not of combine